



Program Manager Assembled
Chemical Weapons Alternatives

Quick Facts: ACWA Program Certification

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

Information

The Nunn-McCurdy certification process has provided the Department of Defense (DoD) an opportunity to review the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program. As a result, DoD has determined that it is appropriate to update the program's baseline cost and schedule estimates to more realistic values. The information below outlines basic information on the certification process, the results of the process and the program's path forward.

Nunn-McCurdy Background

- During the recent program review process for the Defense Acquisition Board, ACWA informed DoD that it had breached the Program Acquisition Unit Cost that was certified in the current Acquisition Program Baseline (APB).
- Subsequently, DoD took the appropriate steps required under the Nunn-McCurdy amendment (Section 2433, Title 10, United States Code) to ensure Congressional notification and the execution of the required certification process.

Certification Process Results

- On January 10, 2007, the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), Mr. Kenneth Krieg, provided certification of the ACWA program to the U.S. Congress.
- The Under Secretary has also directed the development of a revised APB that will increase total program costs from approximately \$4 billion to \$8 billion (then year dollars). Under this estimate, destruction of the Colorado stockpile is anticipated to be complete in 2020, and that of the Kentucky stockpile by 2023. These adjustments will make the program affordable on an annual basis.
- The cost increase can be attributed to a variety of factors including inflation, the availability of more detailed historical data and the maturation of program designs. The current ACWA APB was approved in 2003 soon after the Colorado technology decision and prior to the Kentucky technology decision. It was based on design concepts for both sites. Now that plant designs are nearly complete, DoD can more accurately estimate costs for the life cycle of the program.

The ACWA Path Forward

- The Under Secretary directed ACWA to submit a revised APB within 30 days of certification and implement additional oversight mechanisms to prevent future cost and schedule breaches.
- ACWA will continue to ensure the appropriate management tools are in place to control risks related to cost and schedule, as well as explore ways to accelerate the program schedule and constrain program costs while keeping safety as the program's top priority.

